

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS PFOR CH

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN
OBTAINING PRC VISAS (S/S NO.7601421)

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM EA - ROBERT H. MILLER, ACTING

1. THE PROBLEM.

MESSRS. SALIN L. LEWIS AND JOHN H. SLADE OF THE
NEW YORK INVESTMENT FIRM OF BEAR, STERNS WANT YOU TO
INTERCEDE WITH THE CHINESE IN SUPPORT OF THEIR INTEREST
IN SECURING VISAS FOR A VISIT TO THE PRC.

2. BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS.

MESSRS. LEWIS AND SLADE CONTACTED YOUR OFFICE ON
JANUARY 19 THROUGH AN INTERMEDIARY, MR. MICHAEL
SAPERSTEIN. SAPERSTEIN, WHO DESCRIBED HIMSELF
AS YOUR CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND, SAID THAT HE HAD ALSO
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WRITTEN ON JANUARY 15 TO OUR LIAISON OFFICE IN PEKING ON

THEIR BEHALF. HE SAID THAT LEWIS AND SLADE PLAN TO BE IN HONG KONG MARCH 7 AND WISH TO ENTER THE PRC FROM THERE.

3. THE PRC HAS APPROVED ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF VISA REQUESTS FROM US CITIZENS. AS A RESULT, WE ARE FREQUENTLY ASKED BY PRIVATE CITIZENS TO INTERCEDE ON THEIR BEHALF WITH THE CHINESE. WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY TURNED ASIDE SUCH REQUESTS, EXPLAINING THAT WHILE WE SUPPORT US PRIVATE TRAVEL TO THE PRC, TO INTERVENE IN SPECIFIC CASES WOULD BE BOTH INEQUITABLE AND IMPRACTICAL, GIVEN THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS TRYING TO VISIT THE PRC.

4. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, I BELIEVE IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR YOU TO INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF LEWIS AND SLADE. INSTEAD, I PROPOSE THAT EA CONTACT SAPERSTEIN, EXPLAIN OUR POLICY, AND OFFER ADVICE ON HOW THEY SHOULD PROCEED IN SEEKING PRC VISAS ON THEIR OWN.

5. RECOMMENDATION.

THAT YOU AUTHORIZE EA TO CONTACT SAPERSTEIN ON YOUR BEHALF, EXPLAIN WHY IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO INTERCEDE, AND OFFER WHATEVER HELPFUL ADVICE WE CAN.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

ROBINSON

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